

**Sponsored by: Administration**

**CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA  
RESOLUTION 2022-010**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITTIER,  
ALASKA, RECOGNIZING CONGRESSMAN DONALD EDWIN "DON"  
YOUNG AND CELEBRATING HIS LIFE AND LEGACY**

**WHEREAS**, Donald Edwin "Don" Young was born on June 9, 1933, in Meridian, California. He grew up on a family farm. He earned a bachelor's degree in teaching at Chico State College, now known as California State University Chico, in 1958. Between earning his degree, he served in the U.S. Army's 41st Tank Battalion from 1955 to 1957; and

**WHEREAS**, Young came to Alaska in 1959, the same year Alaska became a state, and credited Jack London's "Call of the Wild," which his father used to read to him, for drawing him north; and

**WHEREAS**, in Alaska, Young settled in Fort Yukon. He held jobs in areas like construction, trapping and commercial fishing. He was a tug and barge operator who delivered supplies to villages along the Yukon River, and he taught fifth grade at a Bureau of Indian Affairs school. He was elected mayor of Fort Yukon in 1964 and elected to the state House two years later. He served two terms before winning election to the state Senate; and

**WHEREAS**, Young was elected mayor of Fort Yukon in 1964 and served in that role until 1967 and was elected to and served in the Alaska House of Representatives from 1967 to 1970 and the Alaska State Senate from 1970 to 1973; and

**WHEREAS**, in March 1973 he was elected to the United States House of Representatives in a close special election. He counted among his career highlights passage of legislation his first year in office that allowed for construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline system, which became the state's economic lifeline; and

**WHEREAS**, Young served as chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee from 1995 to 2001 and then as the chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee from 2001-2007. In 2013 Young became the longest-serving member of Alaska's congressional delegation; and

**WHEREAS**, Young fiercely defended Alaska and Alaskans as the sole Representative for the largest State in the United States and devoted himself to fulfilling the immense promise of his home State and was a leader in strengthening the role of Alaska in providing for the national defense of the United States through his support for the Coast

Guard, the Alaskan Command, and the ballistic missile defense and his steadfast commitment to the leadership of the United States in the Arctic; and

**WHEREAS**, Young was the longest-serving Republican in the history of Congress proudly working alongside 10 different presidents and formed strong relationships and friendships with members on both sides of the aisle; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 5, 2017, Representative Young became the 45th Dean of the House of Representatives, reflecting his status as its most senior member; and

**WHEREAS**, Young was the longest serving Republican in the history of congress serving the 49th State with dedication and distinction for 49 years and 13 days, which is more than 3/4 of the period in which Alaska has been a State; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED;** the City Council of the City of Whittier, Alaska, hereby recognizes and extends great gratitude to Donald Edwin Young, congressman for all Alaska, for his distinguished service and lasting contributions to communities as congressional delegate for the State of Alaska.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by a duly constituted quorum of the Whittier City Council on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022

**THE CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dave Dickason  
Mayor

AYES: Blair, Shen, McCord, Pinguoch  
Denmark, and Dickason

NAYS:

ABSENT: Wagner

ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Naelene Matsumiya  
City Clerk

(City Seal)